

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2061

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12951

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, US, GW

SUBJECT: PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE

REF: BONN 12884

1. IN LIGHT OF NEGATIVE REACTION OF KRUSE TO OUR POSITION ECON/COMM MINISTER FOLLOWED UP WITH LAUTENSCHLAGER WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY IN HERMES' ABSENCE ON LEAVE. ECON/COMM MIN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER KRUSE'S COMMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF REPORTS OF WISCHNEWSKI'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA SUGGESTING GERMAN POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD FOURTH COMMISSION. HE URGED WITH LAUTENSCHLAGER THAT FRG NOT ROCK THE BOAT WHILE WE ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY APPROACHES TO FINANCIAL QUESTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSIONS.

2. LAUTENSCHLAGER REACTED WITH, IF ANYTHING, MORE VIGOR AND FIRMNESS THAN KRUSE. HE RECALLED THAT COMMISSIONS QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN CHANCELLOR, GISCARD AND THE PRESIDENT IN HELSINKI AND IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT MATTER WOULD BE LEFT OPEN. HE ALSO REFERRED TO UNIDENTIFIED STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS IN HELSINKI ON COMMISSIONS QUESTION BY GISCARD AND SCHMIDT.

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3. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE PERFECTLY

HAPPY TO SEE SAUDIS SATISFIED EITHER BY DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL MATTERS IN THREE COMMISSIONS OR IN SUB-COMMISSIONS. AT THE SAME TIME HE INSISTED THAT THE FRG WOULD ACCEPT FOURTH COMMISSION RATHER THAN HAVE THE DIALOGUE FOUNDER ON THIS ISSUE.

4. ON SIZE OF COMMISSIONS, LAUTENSCHLAGER EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT INDIA AGREED TO 15 AS MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MEMBERS. HE KNEW OF NO SUCH CONSENSUS ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT MATTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPLORED IN CORRIDORS OF IEA (WHICH LAUTENSCHLAGER BY IMPLICATION SUGGESTED WAS OF NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE). LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION COULD BE LIMITED TO 15 MEMBERS AND HE COULD WELL IMAGINE THAT ENERGY COMMISSION MIGHT BE BETTER OFF WITH LESS. AGAIN LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THAT FRG COULD ACCEPT 15-MEMBER LIMIT BUT COULD NOT ALLOW THIS ISSUE TO STAND IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS IN THE DIALOGUE.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE FIRM UNRELENTING ATTITUDE OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON THIS QUESTION. ALL OF THIS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAVE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FROM ON HIGH. THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, ECON/COMM MIN TOLD LAUTENSCHLAGER THAT WE WANTED FRG TO KNOW THAT THIS IS A MATTER TO WHICH WE ATTACHED IMPORTANCE AND URGED THAT FRG GIVE OUR VIEWS MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.
HILLENBRAND

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